GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1533
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
PRESERVATION PRODUCTION OF AYURVEDIC MEDICINES
JASKAUR MEENA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government for the preservation and increase of production of Ayurvedic herbal medicines;

(b) whether a number of herbal medicinal species are on the verge of extinction in our country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) The measures taken up to increase production of Ayurvedic and other medicines of the Indian System of Medicine inter-alia include:

- Giving policy level support to the use of ISM&H medicines(including Ayurvedic Medicines) by encouraging State Governments to provide drugs in keeping with the Essential Drugs List for Government dispensaries & hospitals.

- Assisting State Pharmacies to renovate and upgrade their infrastructure which inter-alia would have a beneficial effect on production of better quality drugs.

- Setting up a Medicinal Plants Board which will address the need to augment supply of good quality raw material so that the standards and efficacy of the drugs improves which in turn is expected to enhance preservation of plants found in the wild while promoting production of the end products.

(b)&(c) The Botanical Survey of India(BSI) has prepared a Red Data Book listing the threatened and endangered species of plants including medicinal plants. A list of 29 medicinal plants that are threatened or endangered have been included in the negative list for exports. The plants, plant portions, derivatives and extracts prepared out of these plants obtained from the wild are not allowed to be exported. In order to protect the endangered medicinal plant species from extinction, such species are not allowed to be drawn from the wild. Central assistance is provided for ex-situ cultivation and development of such medicinal plants by setting up of Medicinal Plants Gardens and development of agro-techniques.